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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/021,190	10/30/2001	Michael D. Derocher	10017879 -1	9440

7590 10/26/2005

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
JEAN, FRANTZ B	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2151	

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/021,190	DEROCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Frantz B. Jean	2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 October 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-49* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-49* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/30/01,8/19/03*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application for patent filed on 10/30/01.

Claims 1-49 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/30/01 and 08/19/03 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kovacs et al. US Publication Number 2001/0003191A1.

As per claim 1, Kovacs teaches an input device (fig 2) comprising: a first selector (any item on a keyboard or a GUI window 69 on fig 4) that generates a signal that controls placement of a symbol a (a shape, character or a virtual button on a window/toolbar; see fig 4) on a computer display (par 0108), said computer display being coupled to a computer that receives said signal from said first selector; and a second selector that causes said computer to display information that pertains to becoming a member of an ad hoc network (par 0109).

As per claim 2, Kovacs teaches input device of claim 1, wherein said second selector causes said computer to display information that pertains to initiating an ad hoc network (see par 0108-0109).

As per claim 3, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 1, wherein said second selector causes said computer to display information that pertains to joining an existing ad hoc network (the system is modified or updated to allow addition or deletion of member or device see par 0079; 0108-0111).

As per claim 4, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 1, wherein said input device is a computer keyboard and wherein said second selector is a button located on said computer keyboard (the computer keyboard is embedded in item 30 of fig 2 and the button is any key on the keyboard).

As per claim 5, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 4, wherein said symbol is an alphanumeric character generated by said first selector (see fig 4).

As per claim 6, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 4, wherein said computer keyboard communicates with said computer by way of a wireless interface (item 30 is a mobile device see par 0046).

As per claim 7, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 1, wherein said input device is a graphical input device and wherein said second selector is a button located on said graphical input device (fig 4 provides a graphical input device and virtual button par 0107-0108).

As per 8, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 7, wherein said symbol is one of an arrow and an I-beam pointer (see fig 4).

As per claim 9, Kovacs teaches an input device of claim 7, wherein said graphical input device communicates with said computer by way of a wireless interface (see par 0109).

As per claim 10, Kovacs teaches In a computer, a method for initiating an ad hoc network (fig 1 par 0042), comprising: receiving a command to initiate said ad hoc network, said command originating from an input conveyed to said computer by an input device (par 0042-0046; presenting a list of usernames that correspond to other users within wireless communications range of said computer (par 0108-0111); and transmitting content to at least some of said other users within said wireless communications range (par 0046; 0108-0111).

As per claim 11, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, wherein said input device is a keyboard connected to said computer (see fig 2).

As per claim 12, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, wherein said input device is a graphical input device that controls the placement of an arrow on a display associated with said computer (see fig 4).

As per claim 13, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, additionally comprising decoupling said computer from a wireless communications infrastructure (par 0079).

As per claim 14, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, additionally comprising receiving an indication that a user of said computer desires to allow a certain one of said usernames to join said ad hoc network, said indication being conveyed to said computer by said input device (0060-0083).

As per claim 15, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, additionally comprising receiving authentication information from at least one of said users within wireless communications range of said computer (par 0017, 0056).

As per claim 16 Kovacs teaches a method of claim 10, wherein said presenting action includes presenting a document that includes said list of said usernames, and wherein selecting at least one username of said list of usernames causes said computer to transmit a meeting invitation to said at least one username (par 0060-0083; 0108-0111).

As per claim 17, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 16, wherein said document is one of

the group consisting of a distribution list, a report, an electronic mail message, and a spread sheet (par 0108-0109).

As per claim 18, Kovacs teaches a computer that establishes an ad hoc network (0042-0046), comprising: a keyboard (item 30 has a keyboard) having a selector (a key on the keyboard) that generates a signal which indicates that a user has selected an ad hoc networking function (0109); a processor (30), coupled to said keyboard, which receives said signal and initiates an ad hoc network function; and a network interface (fig 2), coupled to said processor, for communicating directly with at least one other computer within wireless communications range of said first computer (0042).

As per claim 19, Kovacs teaches a computer of claim 18, wherein said selector is a button (a key on the keyboard of item 30) that is depressed by said user when said user selects said ad hoc function.

As per claim 20, Kovacs teaches a computer of claim 18, wherein said network interface transmits and receives information in accordance with an 802.11 protocol (see fig 1, par 0043).

As per claim 21, Kovacs teaches a computer of claim 20, wherein said processor additionally directs said network interface to decouple from a communications infrastructure in response to receiving said signal (par 0079).

As per claim 22, Kovacs teaches a computer of claim 18, wherein said network interface transmits and receives information in accordance with a Bluetooth protocol (fig 1; par 0018, 0042).

As per claim 23, Kodacs teaches a computer of claim 18, wherein said network interface additionally receives at least one identifier that corresponds to said at least one other computer within wireless communications range said computer that establishes said ad hoc network (par 0010, 0055-0056).

As per claim 24, Kovacs teaches a method of receiving content in an ad hoc network, comprising; selecting, by a user, an ad hoc network function, said selection being made by way of an ad hoc selector on a keyboard coupled to a computer; said computer configuring itself to connect with said ad hoc network; and said computer receiving content present on said ad hoc network (see fig 2-4; par 0042-0046).

As per claim 25, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 24, wherein said computer configures itself according to settings used to conduct a previous ad hoc meeting (par 0042-0046).

As per claim 26, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 24, additionally comprising said computer presenting a list of previous ad hoc network session names to said user, said

presenting occurring prior to said configuring (0060-0083; 0104-0111).

As per claim 27, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 26, additionally comprising said computer receiving a session name selected by a user from said list of previous ad hoc session names (par 0008 and 0109).

As per claim 28, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 24, wherein said selector is a button on said keyboard (the button is any key on the keyboard embedded in item 30).

As per claim 29, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 24, wherein said ad hoc network operates over a local area network using a wireline interface (fig 1 par 0001-0010).

As per claim 30, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 24, wherein said ad hoc network operates over a wide area network (fig 1; par 0001-0010).

AS per claim 31, Kovacs teaches a method for communicating by way of an ad hoc network (par 0042), comprising: a first computer receiving an input from an ad hoc network selector positioned on a keyboard connected to said first computer (fig1-2; par 0042 et seq); a second computer receiving an indication that said first computer has initiated an ad hoc network (fig 1-2; par 0042 et seq; par 0109); and said second computer receiving an input from an ad hoc selector positioned on a keyboard connected to said second computer (fig 1-2; par 0042 et seq; par 0109).

As per claim 32, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 31, additionally comprising said second computer transmitting a username to said first computer (par 0109).

AS per claim 33, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 32, additionally comprising said second computer transmitting authentication information to said first computer (par 0106).

As per claim 34, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 33, additionally comprising said first computer verifying the authenticity of said authentication information (par 0106).

As per claim 35, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 31, additionally comprising said second computer receiving content from said first computer (par 0109).

As per claim 36, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 31, additionally comprising at least one of said first and said second computers decoupling from a communications infrastructure (par 0079; 0073-0083).

As per claim 37, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 31, additionally comprising said second computer illuminating said ad hoc selector, said illuminating occurring in response to said second computer receiving said indication from said first computer (par 0109).

As per claim 38, Kovacs teaches a method of claim 31, additionally comprising said second computer causing an icon on a display associated with said second computer to blink in response to said second computer receiving said indication (fig 4).

As per claim 39, Kovacs teaches one or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising: receiving a command to initiate an ad hoc network, said command originating from an input conveyed to said computer by a keyboard in response to a selection made by a user of said computer; configuring said computer to initiate an ad hoc network; and transmitting content to at least one other user within wireless communications range of said computer (see claim 10 rejection above).

As per claim 40, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of presenting a username to said user of said computer, said username corresponding to said at least one other user (par 0109).

As per claim 41, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 40, wherein selecting said username causes said computer to transmit a meeting invitation to a computer that associated with said username (par 0109).

As per claim 42, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 41, wherein said username is presented by way of a document presented to said user of said computer (fig 4; par 0109; par 0060-0083; 0108-0111).

As per claim 43, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 42, wherein said document is one of the group consisting of a distribution list, a report, an electronic mail message, and a spread sheet (par 0108-0109).

As per claim 44, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of receiving an indication that said user of said computer has accepted said at least one other user to become a member of said ad hoc network (par 0109).

As per claim 45, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of receiving information that authenticates said at least one other user (par 0106; 0017; 0056).

As per claim 46, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to

execute the additional action of transmitting an encryption key to said at least one other user (par 0106; 0017; 0056).

As per claim 47, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of transmitting encrypted information to said at least one other user (par 0106; 0017; 0056).

As per claim 48, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of presenting a virtual meeting place on the display of said computer. (par 0060-0083; 0108-0111).

As per claim 49, Kovacs teaches a computer-readable media of claim 48, wherein the computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to execute the additional action of locating said at least one other user to said virtual meeting place and transmitting an invitation to said at least one other user located in said virtual meeting place (par 0060-0083; 0108-0111).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz B. Jean whose telephone number is 571-272-3937. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6:00 M-f.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on 571 272 3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frantz Jean

FRANTZ B. JEAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER